

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 stand objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112. These claims have been amended to properly claim the subject matter and the term “resumption pointer” has been removed. Additionally independent claims 1, 7, 13, 15 and 16 along with claims 3-4 have been amended to better claim the subject matter. The following paragraphs support these amendments.

The amended independent claims 1, 7, 13, 15 and 16 all add a tab layout template as supported by the description on page 10 starting on line 1 as recited below:

Page 10, lines 1-11: If no default Tab Layout Template is specified, the user will select a Tab Layout Template and the system will then create as many banks of tabs of the selected Tab Layout Template as are required for the number of selected pages. To add the correct number of banks, the system will load the Tab Layout Template and will iterate through all its entries and will generate a new tab in the table for every entry. If there are still table entries with page numbers left that do not have an associated tab after a full bank is processed, the system will start over and process the entries in the Tab Layout Template again until no pages are left without an associated tab. If all specified page numbers are consumed and the Tab Layout still has entries left, the program will continue to add blank entries to the table until the end of the tab style template definition is reached.

Further added is reference to a tab creator tool as referenced on page 8 and recited below:

Page 8, line 4. The Creator Tool 1210 provides a display that lets the user select the desired tab stock, text and style. It includes a layout window 1210.1 that lets the user access the Layout Template 1220. Other windows 1210.4 and 1210.3 let the user access the Text and Style Templates, 1222, 1224, respectively. To define a tab for a document, the user selects data from the three templates 1220, 1222, 1224. Once the tab stock is selected, the first column of the tool imports all the tabs of the selected bank of tabs into the Tab Creator 1210 by copying the information from the Tab Layout Template line by line until the end of the tab style template definition is reached.

Additionally there are active and inactive tabs as discussed on page 9 and page 11 as recited below. Claims 1, 7 and 15 designate an active tab or an inactive tab such that the active tab location has a page number and the inactive tab location does not have a page number (page 9, lines 9-10):

Page 9, lines 9-16: In the Tab Creator 1210, every tab is either "Active" or "Inactive". All tabs placed into the table by the system will default to "Inactive". A tab can be activated by specifying a page number in the "Page" column. In addition to the page number, the user has to specify a position relative to this page number. A tab can be inserted before the specified page, inserted after the specified page or added to the specified page. The page position may default to a value that is either hard coded or specified by the user as a preference item. An entry can contain a blank tab label field, but still be active.

Page 11, line 6-Page 12 lines 1-20: The table may contain blank lines (inactive tabs). All inactive tabs will be converted to "Insert" statements, which are sent to the printer. Every insert statement can contain an optional finishing device, which may be different from the finishing device used for the rest of the job. This feature will be utilized to discard the inactive (or unused) tabs to the purge exit e.g. bin 1025 or 1026. The purge exit may be defined on the job level, on the system level, or may even be defined on the Tab Creator 1210 (not shown).

This enables the user to balance tabs (e.g. use tabs 1, 3 and 5 from a five bank tab) by leaving the second and fourth record blank. The system automatically generates "insert after previous page to the purge exit" requests for these pages, so that they are discarded for example to the top exit at the correct position in the document: Tab 2 must be discarded before Tab 3 is used in the document; Tab 2 may be purged at any time after Tab 1 is used and before Tab 3 is used. It may be added as an insert after the page right before Tab 3.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

Claims 7-12 and 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kuwata et al (2003/0222916), now abandoned, and under 35

U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuwata et al in view of Schwier et al (2005/0206954). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the office action, the examiner stated that Kuwata teaches a computer program to “select a template for a bank of tabs from the stored templates” and further using this template activate one or more tab positions but Kuwata actually uses flags to (see paragraphs 25-27) and Schwier deletes according to specific directions as described in paragraph 46. This is different from the method described and claimed in the current application. The Applicants have amended the claims to better claim this invention.

As discussed above, this invention does not anticipate Kuwata since Kuwata uses a check mark not page numbers as discussed below. Claims 1, 7 and 15 designates an active tab or an inactive tab such that the active tab location has a page number and the inactive tab location does not have a page number (page 9, lines 9-10). The present invention also performs the method line by line allowing active tabs to be balanced and inactive tabs to be discarded.

The present invention also makes use of a tab creator as discussed on page 8 .Kuwata nor any of the cited art uses a tab creator to automatically place, balance active tabs and discard the automatically determined inactive tabs. The generation of the relevant automatically generated information is discussed throughout the description, such as on pages 8-10, and the discarding is further discussed on page 11 but is not discussed in Kuwata.

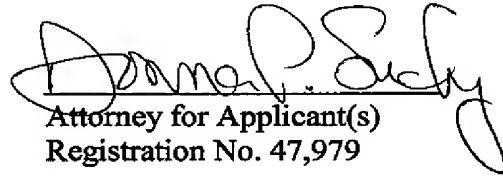
CONCLUSION

Dependent claims not specifically addressed add additional limitations to the independent claims, which have been distinguished from the prior art and are therefore also patentable.

In conclusion, none of the prior art cited by the Office Action discloses the limitations of the claims of the present invention, either individually or in combination. Therefore, it is believed that the claims are allowable.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that additional modifications to the claims are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, he is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below for a telephone interview and Examiner's amendment.

Respectfully submitted,


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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.